

July 12, 2011

TO: ALL PLAYERS

FROM: G. WILLIAM HUNTER

RE: OVERSEAS OPPORTUNITIES

As news of players accepting offers to play in various overseas basketball markets during the NBA lockout proliferates, I want to take a moment to express the NBPA's support for the players who have availed themselves of these opportunities. This lockout is intended to economically pressure our players to agree to an unfavorable collective bargaining agreement. It is important for the owners to understand that there may be significant consequences to their decision to put their own players in these difficult economic circumstances. If the owners will not give our players a forum in which to play basketball here in the United States, they risk losing the greatest players in the world to the international basketball federations that are more than willing to employ them.

I especially commend Deron Williams for the wisdom and courage he has demonstrated these past few days. Deron explored the alternatives available to him and ultimately did not hesitate to avail himself of the best option with which he was presented, signing with Turkey's Besiktas. Following the lead of our other All-Star players who have come to the bargaining table and supported the union's efforts since negotiations began, and the many All-Stars who have come before them that sacrificed so that we may prosper today, Deron again demonstrates that NBA players will not be intimidated by the league's hard-line tactics.

Since we began preparing players for this lockout several years ago, and especially in recent weeks, we have received many questions about players attempting to play overseas during a lockout. To address the bulk of those questions: We believe that there is no impediment to your ability to pursue employment overseas during this lockout. Player contracts are suspended during the lockout, so you may sign with another team as long as you negotiate an out-clause allowing you to honor your NBA contract once the lockout ends. We do not believe that FIBA or the NBA will stand in the way of any players pursuing international opportunities, whether you are under contract or a free agent. You and your agent should secure appropriate protection to

guard against any injury or unforeseen circumstances.

We applaud and support all players, like Deron, who are taking steps to continue to earn a living, stay in peak competitive shape, and play the game that we love while the unfortunate league-imposed lockout is in place. We will continue to engage in meaningful negotiations with the NBA and seek the NLRB's assistance in protecting your rights. I will continue to keep you updated. Stand together, and stay strong.

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G.W.H.